



VICTORIA POLICE

Reporting Crime

Your Rights



Easy English 2015



This book has some hard words.

The first time we write hard words

- the words are in **blue**
- we will write what the hard words mean.



In this book we use pictures of police in

- uniforms



- suits.



This book is about how to **report a crime**.

Report a crime means you tell the police about a crime that happened.



Anyone can report a crime.

Go to page 10 for how to report a crime.



What is a crime?

A crime is against the law.



A crime can be when someone

- hurts you.



- makes you feel unsafe.

- tries to control you.



- does something to you or touches your body in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable.

- **threatens** you. Threatens means someone says they will
 - do bad things to you
 - or
 - hurt you.



- damages something that belongs to you.
- takes something from you without your **consent**. Consent means you say yes.
- steals from you.

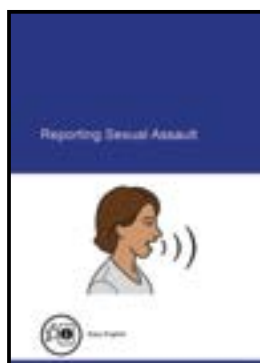


Sexual assault

Sexual assault is another kind of crime and is against the law.

Sexual assault means someone

- does sexual things to you that you do **not** want
or
- tries to do sexual things to you that you do **not** want.



You can read more about this in a book called **Victoria Police. Reporting Sexual Assault. Easy English.**



Who can be a victim of crime?

Anyone can be a **victim** of crime.

A victim of crime is the person a crime happened to.



Who can be a witness of crime?

Witness means you have information about a crime because you

- saw a crime happen to someone
- or
- know about a crime that happened to someone.

A witness might see a crime happen to you.

You might witness a crime happening to someone else.



Who is a criminal?

A person who does a crime is called a **criminal**.

A criminal can be

- someone you know, like
 - someone you spend time with
 - someone you live with
 - a carer
- someone you do **not** know, like
 - a stranger
 - a person you have **not** met before.

Where does crime happen?

A crime can happen anywhere in the community. For example



- where you live



- where you study

- where you work



- on the street

- in a hospital



- at a shopping centre

- at a community service or centre



- on a train

- at the football



- in a taxi.

Also, a crime can happen where you receive services.



How to report a crime



You can report a crime.

You can ask someone to

- help you report a crime
- report a crime for you.



The police will help you when you report a crime.



What if you do not want to report a crime?

You might

- be scared
- be embarrassed to report a crime

or



- do **not** know how to report a crime.



You might think

- something bad will happen
- that you could get into trouble
- that nobody will believe what happened to you.

A victim should **not** be scared to report a crime.



Anybody can report a crime.



Report a crime that is an emergency

It is an **emergency** when something bad

- happens now
- or
- just happened.



For example, someone

- hurts you
- hurts someone you know
- phones you and scares you



- comes to your house, and you do **not** feel safe.

Call 000 fast.



You can use the **National Relay Service - NRS** if you need to.

The NRS is for people who are Deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech difficulty.

Call 000 with TTY or Speak and Listen.

TTY users call 106.

To ask for police type PPP.

TTY users must register with the National Relay Service.

Speak and Listen users call
1800 555 727.

Ask for Triple Zero.

Internet Relay users call 000.

This call is **not** a **priority** over other calls.

This means they will **not** know you have an emergency.



Report a crime that has happened

- Tell the police if the police are at the place where the crime happened.



- Go to your local police station

or

call your local police station.

You can ask to make an appointment to report a crime.

To get information about your local police station you need to do **6 things**.



1. Go to www.police.vic.gov.au
2. Look on the left side of the webpage
3. Click on **Your Local Police**
4. Type your postcode
5. Click search
6. Click on result

Go to page 28 for more support.

Prepare to report a crime

There are things you can do to prepare to report a crime.



You can bring important information like

- your name and address on some **ID**.

ID means

- Key Pass
- Proof of Age Card
- Drivers Licence
- Passport.



- contact details for someone who can help you report the crime.



- something to help you tell the police what happened. For example, a picture board.



What happens when you report a crime

When you report a crime you tell the police what happened.

When you report a crime at a police station



Tell the police officer at the front counter
I want to report a crime.



You might have to wait for the police to help you.



Police will try to take you to a place to talk that

- is **private**
- is quiet
- has enough space.

Private means people can **not** walk past or look in.



The police might ask you to **give a statement**.



Give a statement means the police write down what you tell them.

The police will



- talk to you first

- listen to you

- ask you questions



- ask you if they can talk to your support person



- give you time to
 - tell them what happened
 - answer questions.



- ask you how to help you tell them what happened, like
 - using a communication board
 - use words you can understand
 - say what hard words mean.

You can take a break if you need to.

The police will

- treat you with courtesy
- treat you with respect and dignity
- check what you need.



The police will ask you if you want help.

If you say yes, the police can

- ask for some help for you. This is called making a referral
- help you call the **Victims of Crime Helpline**. Go to page 28.

Who can help you report a crime?



You can bring someone with you

or



ask the police to call someone. For example

- a friend
- a counsellor
- a support worker
- a family member



- an **advocate**.

Advocate means someone who helps you make decisions.



An advocate can **not** give you **legal advice**.

Legal advice means they can **not** tell you what you should do.



You can have a **communication support person**.

A communication support person can help you tell police what happened.



Sometimes the person helping you can **not** talk to the police with you because they are a witness.

Witness means a person

- who saw the crime happen
- knows about the crime.



Police must get you an **interpreter** if you need one. An interpreter is a person who changes your message from one language to another.

For example

- Auslan to English
- Vietnamese to English.



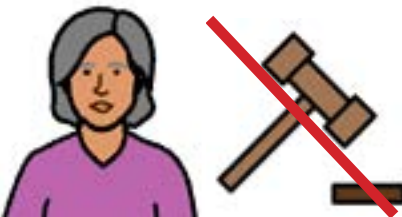
If you need help to understand

- what is happening
- police questions
- your rights

police can get you an **independent third person** or **ITP**.



An ITP is a volunteer from the Office of the Public Advocate (OPA). The ITP is trained to help you understand.



An ITP can **not** give you legal advice.



When

- police can **not** get an ITP

or

- you do **not** want an ITP

you can have someone else help you, like a

- friend
- family member.



What happens after you report a crime?

The police will tell you



- **Yes**, the police will **investigate** what happened to you.

or



- **No**, the police will **not** investigate what happened to you.

Investigate means the police will try to work out what happened.



If the police say they can **not** investigate, they must tell you why. For example, there is **not** enough **evidence**.

Evidence is something that helps police

- find out what happened
- prove to other people what happened.



If the police do **not** tell you why they can **not** investigate, you can **complain**.

Go to page 32.

Complain means you tell someone that you are **not** happy about how the police have treated you.



Investigation

If the police decide to investigate, it is called an **investigation**.



The police will

- talk to you



- talk to witnesses



- write down more information.



Because of what happened to you, you might

- **not** be safe
- or
- **not** feel safe.



What happened and your name will only be told to people who need to know like

- other police
- people who can help you



- lawyers.



The court can give something called a **Family Violence Intervention Order**.


This means police can ask the court for you to be **protected** from a person.

Protected means the person must stay away from you.

The investigation can take a long time.
You might **not** hear from the police straight away.



When the police contact you, they will

- give you information about how to get support
-
- 
- ask you if you want information about the investigation
 - tell you about the steps that happen in an investigation
 - tell you what happened, like if they charged the person who did the crime.



Going to court

If the police charge the person who did the crime you might need to go to court.

At court you will

- answer questions
- say what happened to you.

If you are worried about being in the court room, there will be people to help you.



The police can tell you about what will happen when you go to court.

Where can I get more support?



Victims of Crime Helpline

You can get support to

- stay safe
- talk with police
- report a crime
- get services, like legal advice, counselling and transport
- go to court
- apply for the money you need.



You can

- call 1800 819 817



- text 0427 767 891



- go to www.victimsofcrime.vic.gov.au



- email vsa@justice.vic.gov.au

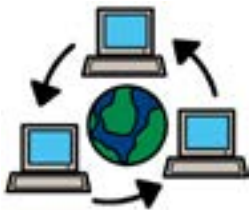
Safe Steps

This was called the Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service.

You can get help if a person in your family or your carer has hurt you.



- Call 1800 015 188
or
03 9928 9600



- Go to www.safesteps.org.au

Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service or VALS

Legal help for the Koorie community.



- Call 1800 064 865



- Go to www.vals.org.au

Women's Legal Service Victoria



- In Melbourne

Call 03 8622 0600



- In country Victoria

Call 1800 133 302



- Go to www.womenslegal.org.au

Witness support



- Call 1800 641 927



- Go to www.opp.vic.gov.au/witnesses-and-victims

For victims of sexual assault

Centres Against Sexual Assault - CASA

CASA is for victims of sexual assault.



- Call 1800 806 292



- Email ahcasa@thewomens.org.au



- Go to www.casa.org.au

After Hours Sexual Assault Crisis Line



- Call 1800 806 292

National Sexual Assault, Domestic Family Violence Counselling Service



- Call 1800 737 732



- Go to www.1800RESPECT.org.au



What can you do if the police treat you unfairly?

If you think the police have treated you unfairly you can complain.



Go to or call your local police station.

Contact the Police Conduct Unit



- Phone 1300 363 101



- Email

psc-policeconductunitcomplaintsandcomplaints@police.vic.gov.au



- Go to

www.police.vic.gov.au

Look on the left side of the webpage.

Click on **Compliments and Complaints**.



- Write to

Police Conduct Unit

GPO Box 913

Melbourne VIC 3001



Contact the Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission

This is when you think the police

- have **not** done their job
- have acted badly.



Fill out a form

- Click on <https://www.ibac.vic.gov.au/reporting-corruption/complaints-form>

or



- Go to www.ibac.vic.gov.au
Click on **Reporting corruption**.
Look on the left side of the webpage.
Click on **Complaint form**.



To get help with the form call
1300 735 135.



Email the form to
info@ibac.vic.gov.au

or



Post the form to
GPO Box 24234
Melbourne VIC 3001

You can complain to the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission if you have experienced **discrimination**.



Discrimination is when a person does **not** treat another person fairly because of their

- disability
- race
- sex
- age

or something else about them.

There are laws about this.

To contact the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission



- Call 1300 891 848



- email information@veohrc.vic.gov.au



- Go to www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au

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Scope's Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre
wrote the Easy English. July 2015 www.scopevic.org.au

To see the original contact Victorian Police.

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VICTORIA POLICE

www.police.vic.gov.au

Authorised by Victoria Police



Victorian Equal Opportunity
& Human Rights Commission

Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission contact details

Enquiry Line	1300 292 153 or (03) 9032 3583
Fax	1300 891 858
Hearing impaired (TTY)	1300 289 621
Interpreters	1300 152 494
Email	information@veohrc.vic.gov.au
Website	www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au